

new SQL commands. Moreover, all of the SQL directives, HTML input directives, and HTML report directives disclosed in the macro language of Nguyen et al. are in the known set of commands already defined before the language interpreter was released to a user. For example, Nguyen et al. does not suggest or disclose how its macro language file interpreter handles a new command unknown to the interpreter encountered in its macro language file.

Unlike Nguyen et al., the present invention allows extending a macro language by providing for "the keyword representing a new macro command not previously defined in the macro language" and "the code associated with the keyword" as claimed in claims 1-5. With the present invention, users are not confined to the macro commands existing at the time of the macro language software release, but are enabled to extend the macro language itself according to their needs without requiring a macro language vendor, for example, to modify the language, recompile the interpreter, and release a new version of the macro language. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that claims 1-5 are patentable over Nguyen et al.

This communication is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and every effort has been made to place the application in condition for allowance. The claims, in view of the foregoing explanation, are believed to be patentable over the prior art, and a favorable Office Action is hereby earnestly solicited.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's

undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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